

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

NSAE-00 SCS-03 AID-20 CCO-00 FBO-01 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NIC-01 NSC-10 OC-06 OPR-02 PA-03 USSS-00 RSC-01

PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SS-15 SY-10 NEA-10 COME-00

EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 TRSE-00 RSR-01 CU-04 /153 W

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O R 222141Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5266

INFO DOD/DIA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3472

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT, PINS, ELAB, MILI

SUBJ: FINALE OF AUG 21 VIOLENCE

REF: SANTIAGO 3719

1. SUMMARY; YESTERDAY AFTERNOON'S DISORDERS DOWNTOWN CONTINUED INTO EVENING AND WERE FOLLOWED BY UP WOMEN'S DEMONSTRATION AT MONEDA. INCIDENTS OCCURRED LATER OUTSIDE HOME OF MINDEFENSE GEN PRATS. MERCHANTS' AND PROFESSIONALS' STRIKE ENTERED SECOND DAY, BUT AGREEMENT APPEARS NEAR ON TRUCK STRIKE. DEATH OF ONE PATRIA Y LIBERTAD LEADER AND ARREST OF 18 OTHERS ANNOUNCED. CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES MET TODAY TO CONSIDER OPPOSITION RESOLUTION CALLING ON ALLENDE AND CABINET MILITARY MEN TO RECTIFY ILLEGAL GOVT POLICIES. END SUMMARY.

2. FINAL TALLY ON AUG 21 GUNFIRE AND DISORDERS DOWNTOWN BETWEEN PN YOUTH(JN) MEMBERS AND UP SUPPORTERS (REFTEL) WAS NO RPT NO DEAD, SIX JN MEMBERS WOUNDED BY GUNFIRE (TWO SERIOUSLY), ANOTHER HALF DOZEN PERSONS INCLUDING PN DEPUTY RODOLFO RAMIREZ
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INJURED OTHERWISE, AND ONE CAR BURNED. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS NOW APPEARS TO BE ROUGHLY AS FOLLOWS: JN MEMBERS STAGED MARCH THROUGH DOWNTOWN AREA IN SOLIDARITY WITH STRIKERS. MARCH ENDED AT PN HEADQUARTERS WHICH ONLY HALF BLOCK FROM

PCCH BUILDING. INCIDENTS INCLUDING STONE THROWING, INSULTS, AND PERHAPS A SHOT OR TWO BETWEEN JN AND PCCH MEMBERS ENSUED, AND BOTH GROUPS DISPERSED BY CARABINEROS USING TEAR GAS (PN CLAIMED POLICE DIRECTED MOST OF THEIR EFFORTS AGAINST JN). MEANWHILE, OTHER MARCHERS MOVED TO AREA OF CONGRESS TWO BLOCKS AWAY TO SHOUT SUPPORT FOR TRUCKERS' WIVES CAMPED ON CONGRESS GROUNDS. GUNFIRE ERUPTED, APPARENTLY FROM UP STREET BRIGADES ON THE SCENE AND FROM CORFO BUILDING WHICH OVERLOOKS CONGRESS. POLICE ARRIVED AFTER INCIDENT VIRTUALLY OVER, CLEARED AREA, AND EVENTUALLY SEARCHED CORFO BUT NO RESULTS ANNOUNCED. PN AND JN SPOKESMEN ISSUED ANGRY STATEMENTS DENOUNCING UP, GOVT, AND POLICE; UP MEDIA BLAMED PN FOR "PROVOKING" INCIDENT OUT OF DESPERATION FOR PERCEIVED FAILURE OF STRIKE AND OTHER "GOLPISTA" ACTIVITIES.

3. MEANWHILE, UP WOMEN HELD RALLY AT UNCTAD BUILDING FOLLOWED BY MARCH TO LA MONEDA WHERE THEY WERE ADDRESSED BY PRES ALLENDE. DEMONSTRATION WAS POINTED ANSWER TO VARIOUS RECENT DEMONSTRATIONS CONDUCTED BY ANTI-GOVT WOMEN. SHOOTING ON ALAMEDA A FEW BLOCKS AWAY WAS STILL GOING ON ABOUT THIS TIME, AS WERE DISORDERS SCATTER THROUGH DOWNTOWN AREA FROM MIDDAY.

4. SEVERAL HUNDRED WOMEN, AT LEAST SOME OF WHOM WERE WIVES OF ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY OFFICERS, DEMONSTRATED FROM MID-AFTERNOON IN FRONT OF HOME OF MINDEFENSE GEN CARLOS PRATS. GOAL WAS TO DELIVER LETTER TO MRS PRATS WHICH ALLEGEDLY ASKED HER TO PRESSURE HUSBAND TO RESIGN AS ARMY CINC AND MINDEFENSE. POLICE USED TEAR GAS TO DISPERSE CROWD. IN EVENING PRES ALLENDE CALLED AT PRATS' HOME TO EXPRESS HIS "SOLIDARITY" WITH PRATS, THEREBY GENERATING A CROWD OF CURIOUS AND SOMEWHAT HOSTILE SPECTATORS WHO WERE ALSO DISPERSED BY GAS-WIELDING POLICE. DURING REST OF EVENING SOME EIGHT

BOMBS EXPLODED NOISILY BUT APPARENTLY HARMLESSLY IN SANTIAGO, MOST IN BARRIO ALTA RESIDENTIAL AREA WHERE MANY GOVT LEADERS, DIPLOMATS AND MIDDLE AND UPPER CLASS CITIZENS RESIDE.

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5. AUG 21 NATIONWIDE STRIKE OF MERCHANTS AND MOST PROFESSIONAL GROUPS WAS ALMOST TOTALLY EFFECTIVE DESPITE VEHEMENT DENIALS BY UP MADIA. STORES AND PROFESSIONALS REMAIN ON STRIKE TODAY, BUT SOME ORGANIZATIONS WHICH JOINED YESTERDAY'S SHUTDOWN HAVE RESUMED WORK (E.G. LAN PILOTS). ALLENDE TERMED STRIKE "UNJUSTIFIED AND ABSURD" AND MINECONOMY CADEMARTORI WARNED OF POSSIBLE GOVT ACTIONS AGAINST STRIKING SHOPKEEPERS.

6. PRATICALLY NO BLUE-COLLAR OR LOWER LEVEL WHITE COLLAR WORKERS JOINED YESTERDAY'S STRIKE, DISREGARDING STRIKE CALL BY CUT SANTIAGO PROVINCE BY SECGEN MANUEL RODRIGUEZ (PDC). EMBASSY SOURCES REPORTUHT RODRIGUEZ ISSUED STRIKE CALL AT URGING OF TOP PDC LEADERSHIP BUT WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH

PDC TRADE UNION DEPARTMENT, WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY ISSUED TEPID EX POST FACTO ENDORSEMENT OF RODRIGUEZ' ACTION. THESE SOURCES NOTE THAT THIS INCIDENT BROUGHT TO A HEAD SIMMERING PROBLEM OF INTERNAL PDC DECISION-MAKING MECHANISM AND AGGRAVATED FEELING AMONG PDC LABOR LEADERS THAT THEY ARE NOT BEING CONSULTED ON KEY DECISIONS.

7 LAND TRANSPORTATION CONFEDERATION (RODADO) AND TRANSPORTATION INTSWVENTOR GEN BRADY APPEAR NEAR AGREEMENT, WITH ONLY A FEW MAJOR POIRWS ON STRIKERS 14-POINT LIST OF DEMANDS YET TO BE RESOLVED. STICKING POINTS ARE REPORTEDLY DISBANDING OF PRO-GOVT MOPARE TRUCKERS ORGANIZATION AND IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION OF NEW TRUCKS TO STRIKERS. GOVT HAS REPORTEDLY YIELDED ON MOST OTHER ITEMS. BRADY ANNOUNCED TRUCK REQUISITIONS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED FOR SEVERAL DAYS AND PRESUMABLY WILL NOT BE RESUMED UNLESS TALKS BREAK DOWN. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AGAIN EXTENDED SCHOOL VACATION.

8. CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES MET IN SPECIAL SESSION WEDNESDAY MORNING TO HEAR PDC DEP CLAUDIO ORREGO INTRODUCE SENSE OF CHAMBER RESOLUTION WHICH ACCORDING TO OPPOSITION LA SEGUNDA CALLS UPON PRESIDENT ALLENDE AND UNIFORMED CABINET MINISTERS TO RECTIFY NATIONS'S "SERIOUS RUPTURE OF CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AND ORDER." RESOLUTION BASED ON LONG BILL OF PARTICULARS OF GOVT WRONGDOINGS INCLUDING MISUSE OF DECREES OF INSISTENCE, ATTACKS AGAINST JUDICIAL AUTHORITY AND VIOLATION OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS. RESOLUTION STATES THAT IF GOVT CHANGES IT POLICIES MILITARY'S POSITION IN CABINET

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WOULD THEREFORE HAVE PROVEN VALUABLE. IF, HOWEVER, GOVT DOES NOT RECTIFY ITS COURSE OF ACTION, MILITARY PRESENCE WOULD CONSTITUTE SERIOUS COMPROMISE OF ARMED FORCES PROFESSIONAL CHARACTER. ACCORDING TO PRESS SOURCES, RESOLUTION BACKED BY ALL OPPOSITION PARTIES AND WILL PROBABLY BE PASSED IN SPECIAL EVENING SESSION AUG 22. RESOLUTION APPARENTLY COMPROMISE BETWEEN PDC AND PN, AND TOPS FAR SHORT OF DECLARATION OF GOVT'S ILLEGITIMACY OR UNCONSTITUTIONALITY WHICH SOME OPPOSITION ELEMENTS (NOTABLY WITHIN PN) HAVE BEEN URGING.

9. INVESTIGATIONS DEPT ANNOUNCED DEATH OF PATRIA Y LIBERTAD LEADER MIGUEL CESSA FROM INJURIES IN AUG 17 AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT. CESSA WAS ASSISTANT TO ROBERTO THIEME AND WAS WITH HIM IN ARGENTINA WHEN THIEME RESURFACED LAS MAY 4. INVESTIGATIONS ALSO REPORTED ARREST OF 18 PYL "COMMANDOS" ALLEGEDLY RESPONSIBLE FOR AUG 13 ELECTRICITY BLACKOUT AND WHO WERE REPORTEDLY PLANNING ADDITIONAL TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IN NEAR FUTURE.
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